

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO/SENV

SUBJ: CCMS: BELGIAN PLANS FOR MAY 7-8 PLENARY -- ENERGY
CONSERVATION

REF: BRUSSELS 2479

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMPLETE REPORT
ON BELGIAN PLANS FOR CCMS MAY PLENARY. WE ARE, HOWEVER,
CONCERNED BY RENSON'S ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED
ENERGY CONSERVATION PILOT STUDY. UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT
REPEAT NOT SEND EXPERT TO BRUSSELS PRIOR TO PLENARY.
HOWEVER, THERE FOLLOWS ARGUMENTATION WHICH EMBASSY
SHOULD USE WITH BELGIAN AUTHORITIES IN THIS RESPECT.

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2. ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS: IN U.S. OPINION, WHILE CERTAIN COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY SCANDINAVIA) HAVE FOR SOME TIME EMPLOYED MORE ENERGY CONSERVATIVE BUILDING PRACTICES THAN IN U.S., ALL COUNTRIES HAVE A NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR TECHNIQUES IN THIS RESPECT. FOR EXAMPLE, DUTCH HAVE JUST INITIATED MAJOR NEW PROGRAM TO IMPROVE INSULATION IN EXISTING BUILDINGS, AND ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES IN NEW BUILDINGS. (SEE REPORTING CABLES ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS MEETING.) EUROPE IS MORE ADVANCED THAN U.S. IN DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEMS; HOWEVER, UK AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS AT IMPROVING THESE SYSTEMS. STRONG PROGRAMS ON HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY CONTINUE IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN FRANCE. HOWEVER, U.S. WORK ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE OF INTEREST IN EUROPE. AT THE BUILDINGS EXPERT MEETING, ONLY ONE COUNTRY DESCRIBED A SPECIFIC EFFORT TO DEVELOP A "REFERENCE YEAR" DESCRIBING AVERAGE CLIMATICAL CONDITIONS; IN U.S. OPINION, THIS KIND OF EFFORT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE BASELINE DATA ON WHICH ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS PROGRAMS MIGHT BE BUILT. THE CIB CLEARING HOUSE WAS ALSO THOUGHT IMPORTANT BY ALL REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING MEETING.

3. ENERGY CONSERVATION IN INDUSTRY: WHILE MANY EUROPEAN ENERGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES HAVE EMPLOYED MORE ENERGY CONSERVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND OPERATING PRACTICES THAN IN U.S., IT WAS GENERALLY CONCEDED BY MOST EUROPEANS ATTENDING THE BRUSSELS MEETING THAT FURTHER EFFORT IN THESE AREAS WAS NEEDED, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO RECOVERY OF WASTE HEAT (SINGLED OUT BY RENSON AS OF INTEREST TO BELGIANS). WHILE U.S. WILL TEND TO LEARN MUCH FROM EUROPE INITIALLY IN SOME OF THE INDUSTRIES SPECIFIED IN THE ENERGY CONSERVATION IN INDUSTRY REPORT, EXTENSIVE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR U.S. ENERGY R&D PROGRAM CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT NEW TECHNOLOGIES WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST TO EUROPEANS. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS IN EUROPEAN INTEREST TO HELP U.S. REDUCE ITS ENERGY CONSUMPTION WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE FINITE NATURE OF WORLDWIDE ENERGY SUPPLY. WITH RESPECT TO UTILITY LOAD MANAGEMENT, THERE IS, IN U.S. OPINION, GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG ELECTRICITY GENERATING COMPANIES THAT THERE STILL MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.

4. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF EMBASSY COULD DRAW ON ABOVE POINTS WITH RENSON. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD WELCOME DETAILED TECHNICAL BELGIAN SUGGESTIONS. HOWEVER, WE WONDER WHETHER PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN CHAIRMAN'S REPORT NOT SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ALLOW APPROVAL AT TURIN PLENARY OF CCMS ENERGY CONSERVATION

PILOT STUDY, WITH BELGIAN AND OTHER TECHNICAL COMMENTS
BEING PROVIDED THEREAFTER IN SUBPROJECT TECHNICAL SESSIONS.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY KEEP US POSTED OF BELGIAN POSI-
TION IN THIS RESPECT. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHAT
OTHER COUNTRIES RENSON FELT AGREED WITH HIM. KISSINGER

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